

Everglades National Park - Shark Valley Bicycle Tour

Date: **Friday**, January 13, 2012

Focus: Wildlife & Nature, **Specialty/Bicycling** – This field trip will focus on the activity, incorporating education on the wildlife, habitat and ecology of the area visited and is NOT primarily a birding field trip

Field Trip Description: When many people think about Everglades National Park, they picture Shark Valley. It is the classic “river of grass”-- a sawgrass marsh full of life and fantastic wildlife viewing opportunities. Participants on this morning’s fifteen-mile bicycle tour may encounter alligators, turtles, anhingas, purple gallinules, and wood storks, as well as a wide variety of herons and egrets and other wildlife. The 15-mile paved road gives easy access to any type of bicycle, with no hills to climb or rough terrain to traverse.

Maximum Group Size: 20

Time Begin: 8:30 am (8:00 am to take care of bicycle rentals)

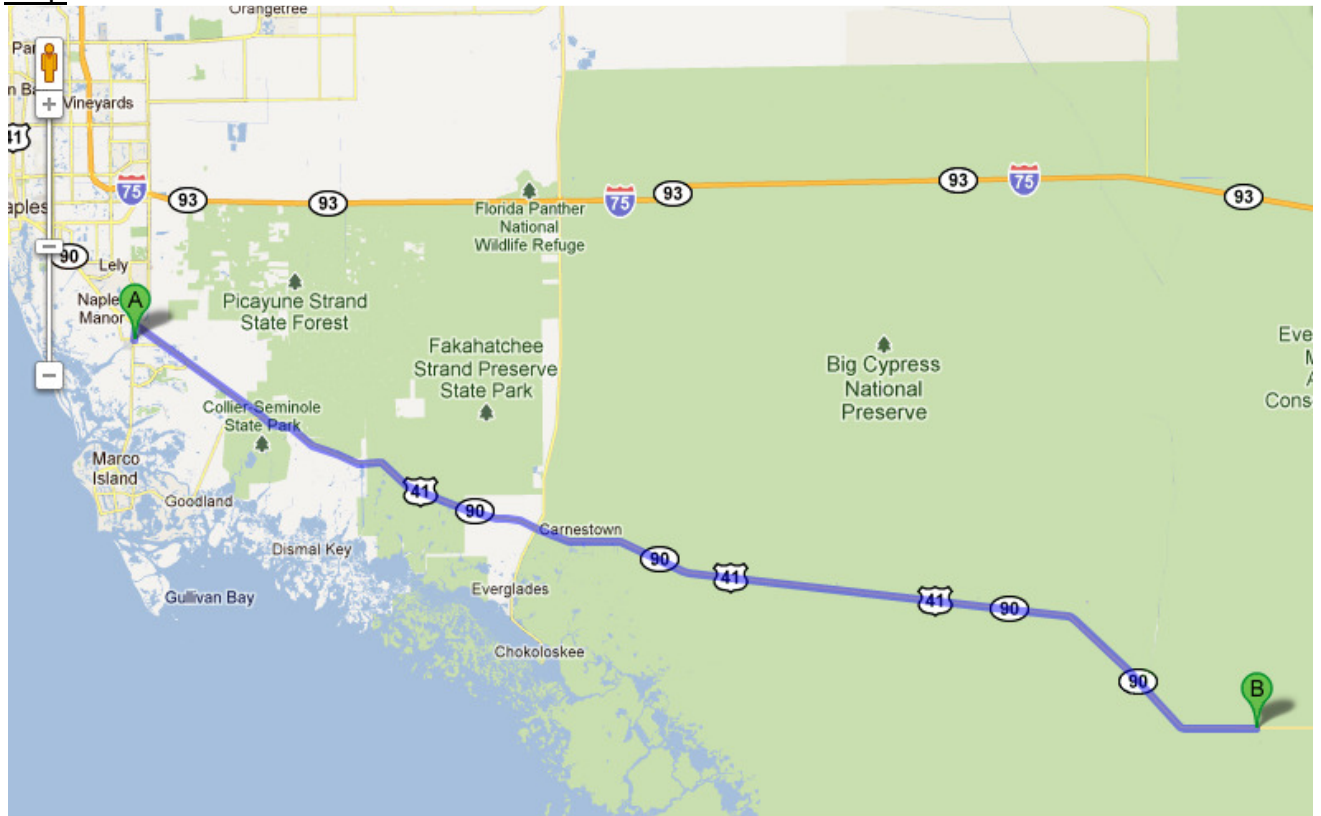
Time End: 11:30 am

Where To Meet: Meet at **8:15 am** at the **Everglades National Park – Shark Valley Visitor Center**. If you will be renting a bicycle, please plan to arrive at **8 am**.

Directions To Meeting Place: Travel south/east on US 41 (Tamiami Trail), **approximately 80 miles east of Naples** (towards Miami). Shark Valley is located on the south side of US 41. Signs are posted.

If the entrance gate is not open when you arrive (it normally opens at 8:30 am), park well off the road along the shoulder of US 41 and walk in to the visitor center.

Map



Trip Leader: NPS Park Ranger

Field Trip Cost: \$10 (plus bicycle rental fee if needed)

Entry Fees (if applicable): **\$10 per vehicle** when the entrance station is open (8:30 am – 5 pm). Free entry with America the Beautiful, Senior, or Access passes or Everglades National Park annual pass.

Cycling Information: **The bicycle tour route is paved and follows a 15-mile loop.** Bring your own bicycle or rent one from the concession. All children under age 16 **MUST** wear a bicycle helmet.

Bicycle Rental: Field trip participants without their own bicycles may rent them from the concession rental area for **\$8.00 per hour** on a first come-first serve basis. A driver's license or I.D. will be required for a deposit on rental bikes. All the rentals are single gear, coaster brake type bicycles with adjustable seats to accommodate different heights. Baskets and helmets are also available for rent for all rental bikes.

Additional Information: Restrooms are located near the visitor center and at the halfway point on the tour route. Vending machines with cold drinks and snacks are available by the visitor center only.

What to Bring: Bicycle, binoculars, and field guides (if available). We also suggest **plenty of water**, sunscreen, snacks, and a camera.

What to Wear: Clothing appropriate for the weather and bicycling.

Web: <http://www.nps.gov/ever/planyourvisit/shark-valley-trails.htm>

Revised: 10/13/11